

# Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan fonds

RG 504

1984-1997, n.d.

Brock University Archives

<b>Creator:</b>	Niagara River Remedial Action Plan Committees and Team (Ontario)
<b>Extent:</b>	1.66 metres of textual records (4.5 boxes) 1 VHS cassette tape 1 audio cassette tape 1 CD-ROM 2 buttons
<b>Abstract:</b>	Fonds contains material relating to the Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan. Most of the material is meeting minutes and reports.
<b>Materials:</b>	Meeting minutes, reports, correspondence, promotional material, audio and video cassette tapes.
<b>Repository:</b>	Brock University Archives
<b>Processed by:</b>	Chantal Cameron
<b>Finding aid:</b>	Chantal Cameron
<b>Last updated:</b>	June 2014
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## Administrative History

The Niagara River Remedial Action Plan was part of an initiative to restore the integrity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. In 1972, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was signed by both Canada and the United States to demonstrate their commitment to protecting this valuable resource. An amendment in 1987 stipulated that Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) be implemented in 43 ecologically compromised areas known as Areas of Concern. The Niagara River was designated as one of these areas by federal and provincial governments and the International Joint Commission, an independent and binational organization that deals with issues concerning the use and quality of boundary waters between Canada and the United States. Although the affected area included parts of both the Canadian and American side of the river, Remedial Action Plans were developed separately in both Canada and the United States.

The Niagara River (Ontario) RAP is a three-stage process requiring collaboration between numerous government agencies and the public. Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are the agencies guiding the development and implementation of the Niagara River (Ontario) RAP. The first stage is to determine the severity and causes of the environmental degradation that resulted in the location being designated an Area of Concern; the second stage is to identify and implement actions that will restore and protect the health of the ecosystem; and the third stage is to monitor the area to ensure that the ecosystem's health has been restored. Stage one of the RAP commenced in January 1989 when a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) was established. This committee was comprised of concerned citizens and representatives from various community groups, associations, industries and municipalities. After several years of consultation, the *Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan Stage 2 Report* was released in 1995. It contained 16 goals and 37 recommendations. Among them was the need for Canadians and Americans to work more collaboratively in order to successfully restore the water quality in the Niagara River.

Stage three of the Niagara River (Ontario) RAP is currently ongoing, but it is estimated that it will be completed by 2015. At that point, the Niagara River Area of Concern will be delisted, although monitoring of the area will continue to ensure it remains healthy.

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## Scope and content

Fonds contains material relating to the work and activities of the Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan Committees. The bulk of the material is meeting minutes and reports. Other materials include correspondence, newsletters, news clippings, promotional material, and audio and video cassette tapes. The meeting minutes contain notices of meetings, agendas, and minutes, as well as some other related material including correspondence, reports, calendars of events, and news clippings. The majority of the meeting minutes are those of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), but some other committee minutes are also included in some of the files. Minutes of the International Advisory Committee (1990-1993) and the Land Use Sub-Committee notes (1991) are filed separately. The original order of the material has largely been retained.

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## **Organization**

The records were arranged into three series:

Series I: Administrative, 1989-1996, n.d.

Sub-series A: Minutes

Sub-series B: Goals & Objectives

Sub-series C: Membership

Sub-series D: Correspondence

Series II: Resources, 1984-1997, n.d.

Sub-series A: Reports

Sub-series B: Niagara River Repository bibliography

Sub-series C: Newsletters

Sub-series D: Other resources

Series III: Activities, 1990-1997, n.d.

Sub-series A: Workshops

Sub-series B: Welland River Clean-up Project

Sub-series C: Radio interview

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## **Common acronyms:**

AOC: Area of Concern

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

IAC: International Advisory Committee

IJC: International Joint Commission

PAC: Public Advisory Committee

RAP: Remedial Action Plan

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## **Inventory:**

**Series I: Administrative, 1989-1996, n.d.**

**Sub-series A: Minutes, 1989-1996, n.d.**

- 1.1-2.29 Minutes, 1989-1996. Contains meeting minutes, agendas, notices of meetings, as well as related material including correspondence, reports, calendars of events, and news clippings. The majority of the minutes are those of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), but some other minutes are also included in some files, such as the Technical Sub-Committee minutes and the Executive Committee minutes.
- 2.30 Land Use Sub-Committee notes, 1991, n.d. Contains notes from a meeting of the committee on April 10, 1991, a newspaper clipping on federal funding to promote tourism in southern Ontario, and an article, *Tourism in Niagara Falls*.
- 2.31 International Advisory Committee minutes, 1990-1993. Also includes the IAC's mission statement.

**Sub-series B: Goals & Objectives, 1990-1993, n.d.**

- 2.32 Public Advisory Committee—Development of Goals & Objectives, 1990-1992, n.d. Contains some minutes of the Technical Sub-Committee meetings, 1990-1992; proposed goals & objectives from the Technical Sub-Committee meeting, June 1991; some correspondence and workshop reports.
- 2.33 Goals & Objectives—Selection Process, 1990-1992. Includes correspondence; forms completed by various individuals and organizations selecting their preferred objectives & goals; a compilation of objectives for consideration by the PAC, August, 1990; and objectives from a PAC meeting, November 13, 1990.
- 2.34 Goals & Objectives, 1991-1993, n.d. Contains detailed drafts of specific goals and objectives.

**Sub-series C: Membership, 1989-1993, n.d.**

- 2.35 Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Membership, 1990-1993. Contains minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, July 28, 1992, with an attached list of PAC sub-committees and their members; an attendance list of the PAC containing member's names and affiliations; public involvement guidelines for Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans, February 1990; Niagara River PAC roster, November 1993; and a draft flow chart of the process for review, submission and response—Remedial Action Plan, stage 2 report.
- 2.36 Membership information package, 1989, n.d. Contains the PAC terms of reference; PAC job description; Niagara River fact sheets; minutes of the first meeting of the PAC, January 17, 1989, and an agenda for the February 21, 1989 meeting.

**Sub-series D: Correspondence, 1990-1995**

- 2.37 Stage I correspondence, 1990. Contains a letter from Ian Brindle, Chair of the Public Advisory Committee, to Ontario Premier David Peterson, dated January 31, 1990, as well as Premier Peterson's reply.
- 2.38 Stage II correspondence, 1992-1993. Contains correspondence with the Ministry of the Environment, Environment Canada, and the Ministry of Environment and Energy.
- 2.39 Correspondence regarding international issues, 1993-1994.
- 2.40 RAP Team meetings, 1991-1992. Contains correspondence and some reports, including *Catchment Management Planning: A discussion of concept, process and application*; *Urbanization and Stream Habitats for Fish: a synoptic review and perspective*; and *Watershed Management and the Health of Fish Habitats: a perspective from fluvial geomorphology*.
- 2.41 Ontario Public Advisory Council, 1990-1995. Contains mostly correspondence, agendas and other material regarding the annual Ontario Public Advisory Committee fall conference.

**Series II: Resources, 1984-1997, n.d.**

**Sub-series A: Reports, 1984-1995, n.d.**

- 2.42 EPA, 1992-1994. Contains a brochure by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, *Guide to R/V Lake Guardian*, and a report, *Deposition of Air Pollutants to the Great Waters: first report to Congress*.
- 2.43-2.44 Government of Canada, 1990-1994, n.d. Contains reports, fact sheets, newsletters and brochures by Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Includes promotional material, including 2 buttons, for the Yellow Fish Road program, which sought to raise awareness of the dangers of disposing of hazardous waste material in storm drains.
- 2.45-3.5 Government of Ontario, 1987-1994, n.d. Contains reports, booklets and promotional material by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of the Environment and Energy. Some of the reports included are *Priority Chemical Loadings from Ontario point sources discharging to the Niagara River, 1981-1987*; *Critique of the Gradient/Geotrans report on potential contaminant loadings to the Niagara River from U.S. hazardous waste sites, 1991*; *Potential Contaminant loadings to the Niagara River from Canadian waste disposal sites, 1991*; *Niagara River biomonitoring study*; *Fill quality guidelines for Lakefilling in Ontario: application of sediment and water quality guidelines to Lakefilling, 1992*; *Guidelines for the protection and management of aquatic sediment quality in Ontario, 1992*; *the Niagara River mussel and leech*

*biomonitoring study, 1992; Chemicals of concern in Niagara River tributaries, 1993; An environmental evaluation of the Lower Welland River, 1993; Environmental Investigations: Niagara River shorewells, 1994; and Options for the remediation of environmental problems in the Niagara River (Ontario) Area of Concern, 1994. Also includes a guide to Ontario sport fishing, 1993-1994.*

- 3.6-3.7 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 1990-1994, n.d. Contains *Buffalo River Remedial Action Plan Annual Report*, June 1990 and June 1992; *Niagara River Remedial Action Plan summary* (draft), March 1993; and two issues of the *Water Bulletin*, May 1993 and February 1994.
- 3.8-3.11 Environment Canada/EPA/Ontario Ministry of the Environment/New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 1984-1997. Contains reports published jointly by these departments, including joint evaluations of upstream/downstream Niagara River monitoring data, 1984-1995, and several reports related to the Niagara River toxics management plan, 1984-1988.
- 3.12-3.13 International Joint Commission, 1990-1993. Contains reports submitted to the IJC by the Council of Great Lakes Research Managers and the Great Lakes Water Quality Board.
- 3.14-3.15 International Joint Commission, 1991-1993. Contains reports by the virtual elimination task force of the International Joint Commission.
- 3.16 International Joint Commission—Great Lakes Agreement Information Kit, 1986-1988. Contains a newsletter of the IJC, as well as several brochures and the third biennial report of the International Joint Commission, December 1986.
- 3.17 International Joint Commission—Review of Stage 1 document, 1993-1994. Contains mostly correspondence relating to the IJC's review of the Niagara River (Ontario) RAP.
- 3.18 International Joint Commission Reports—Other, 1986-1993, n.d. Includes brochures about Remedial Action Plans; the third biennial report of the International Joint Commission, December 1986; the final report of the Great Lakes Educators Advisory Council to the IJC, 1993; Great Lakes Science Advisory Board 1993 report to the International Joint Commission; and a report from the International Air Quality Advisory Board to the International Joint Commission, titled *Progress by the Parties in completing an inventory of toxic air emission and in assessing toxic air deposition in the Lake Superior basin*, 1993.
- 3.19 Niagara River Remedial Action Plan report—Stage 1: Environmental Conditions and Problem Definition, 1992.

- 3.20 Niagara River Remedial Action Plan—Stage 1 comments & update, 1993-1995. Contains review comments for the Niagara River (Ontario) RAP Stage 1 report and a report update.
- 3.21 Niagara River Remedial Action Plan draft Stage 1 report review, 1990-1994. Contains comments by the PAC technical sub-committee concerning the RAP Stage 1 report.
- 3.22 Niagara River Remedial Action Plan—Stage 2 report: the Cleanup Connection, 1995. Also contains a promotional booklet on the Stage 2 report.
- 3.23 Formal release of Stage 2 report, June 1995. Contains an agenda for the release of the Stage 2 report, as well as a newsletter from Gary Pillitteri, MP for Niagara Falls, featuring an article on the release of the Stage 2 report.
- 4.1 Niagara River Remedial Action Plan report, 1989. Contains a report submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment titled *Public involvement program for the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan: Summary of Activities for the 1988-1989 fiscal year*.
- 4.2 Niagara River Remedial Action Plan booklet, n.d. Contains two booklets (one in French and one in English) published by the Niagara River RAP titled *The Niagara River: How did we get to this stage?* Also includes completed response cards from the public that were included in the booklet.
- 4.3-4.5 Beak Remedial Options, 1991-1992. Contains reports by Beak Remedial Options for the Niagara River RAP, as well as related correspondence. Reports include a draft titled *Options for the remediation of environmental problems in the Niagara River (Ontario) Area of Concern: Phase I: Preliminary identification of remedial options*; a draft of *Phase II: Screening of remedial options*; and a final copy of the Phase II report.
- 4.6 Regional municipality of Niagara reports, 1989, n.d. Contains booklets on the Welland water pollution control plant, the Stamford Niagara pollution control plant, and the Anger Avenue, Town of Fort Erie pollution control plant.
- 4.7 Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto waterfront, 1992. Contains a report titled *Regeneration: Toronto's waterfront and the sustainable city—final report*.
- 4.8 Center for the Great Lakes, 1991. Contains a report titled *Making RAPs happen: financing and managing cleanups at Great Lakes Areas of Concern*.

**Sub-series B: Niagara River Repository bibliography, 1989, 1996**

- 4.9 Contains a copy of the Niagara River Repository bibliography (1996), a collection of reports and documents keeping the public informed on pollution in the Niagara River Area of Concern. Material is available at the Niagara Falls Public Library, Victoria Ave. branch. Also contains a list of publications by the Ministry of the Environment relating to the Niagara River, 1989.

**Sub-series C: Newsletters, 1990-1997**

- 4.10 Current, 1991-1997. Contains copies of the newsletter published by the Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan Advisory Committee.
- 4.11 Fact sheets, 1991-1995. Contains fact sheets for the Niagara River RAP, as well as other areas that are part of the Great Lakes RAPs, published by the federal-provincial RAP Steering Committee. Includes fact sheets on Spanish Harbour; Severn Sound; Bay of Quinte; Port Hope Harbour; Metro Toronto & region; Hamilton Harbour; Wheatley Harbour; Detroit River; St. Clair River; Thunder Bay; Peninsula Harbour; Jackfish Bay; Nipigon Bay; St. Mary's River; Collingwood Harbour; and the St. Lawrence.
- 4.12 Great Lakes United, 1991-1992. Contains newsletters of the Great Lakes United, a binational coalition for the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence ecosystem. Also contains a report by Great Lakes United titled *Broken Agreement: the failure of the United States and Canada to implement the Great Lakes Water Quality agreement*, 1991.
- 4.13 River RAP: Remedial Action Plan Newsletter, 1990-1994. Contains newsletters of the Niagara River Action Committee (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation). Also contains a list of members of the Niagara River Action Committee.

**Sub-series D: Other resources, 1988-1995, n.d.**

- 4.14 Niagara River Toxics Management Plan, 1992-1994. Contains correspondence, updates and progress reports, an article titled *The Niagara River, Lake Ontario and the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan* (Williams, Kuntz and El-Shaarawi), and another titled *The Niagara River Toxics Management Plan: an approach to measure and communicate progress* (Williams, Kuntz, Neilson, Philbert et al.)
- 4.15 Guide to the Great Lakes Partnerships, n.d. Contains a computerized tour on CD-ROM and accompanying print guide featuring Canada's 17 Remedial Action Plans.
- 4.16 Waterways Walkabout, 1988, 1992. Contains two editions of a guide to recognizing, identifying and documenting sources of water pollution. Written by Mike Dickman, Biological Sciences Department, Brock University.



- 4.17 Promotional material, 1990, 1995, n.d. Contains several brochures and booklets, including *A field guide to aquatic exotic plants and animals*; *Working together for the Great Lakes: Remedial Action Plan*; *Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Regulation: what it means and how it works*; *Buffalo sewer authority secondary treatment plant*; and *The Niagara Anglers: news and views*.

**Series III: Activities, 1990-1997, n.d.**

**Sub-series A: Workshops, 1992-1993**

- 4.18 Ecosystem approach to pollution control planning in the Niagara River AOC, June 1992. A workshop hosted by the Public Advisory Committee of the Niagara River RAP and held at Brock University. Includes workshop materials such as summaries of presentations, a list of participants, workshop agenda and follow-up comments.
- 4.19-4.20 Remedial options workshops—Stage 2, 1993. Contains agendas, workshop summaries and comments regarding various issues including water quality, sediment quality and biota and habitat quality. Also includes a review of the draft report.

**Sub-series B: Welland River Clean-up Project, 1990-1997, n.d.**

- 4.21-4.22 Minutes, 1991-1997. Contains agendas and minutes of the Planning Committee and the Technical Review Committee of the Welland River Clean-up Project.
- 4.23-4.24 Correspondence, 1990-1997. Contains correspondence related to the project.
- 4.25 Promotional material, 1995, n.d. Contains brochures and information updates on the project.
- 4.26 News clippings, 1991, 1995, n.d. Contains news clippings and a press release about the project.
- 4.27-4.28 Welland River Dredging & Sediment Treatment, 1991-1993. Contains a summary of the Welland River Dredging Demonstration project, 1991; a workshop summary on the project, 1993, and a VHS cassette tape of the Dredging Demonstration, 1991.
- 5.1-5.4 Reports, 1995, 1996. Titles include *The Full-Scale Welland River Reef Clean-up Project*, main report and supplementary data (2 volumes); *Welland River Reef Clean-up Environmental Screening Report*; *Sediment and Biological Investigation of the Welland River at Welland, Ont.* (Jaagumagi, Bedard & Petro); and *Welland River Reef Clean-up Project contract C1: Sediment Removal and Treatment* (Atlas specialty steels).

**Sub-series C: Radio interview, 1991**

- 5.5           An audio cassette tape of an interview with Ian Brindle (Chair of the PAC) and Phil Weller broadcast on the radio station CJRN, November 7, 1991.

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**Related material:**

Niagara River Remedial Action Plan stage 2 update. Welland, Ont.: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, c2011. **SPCL FC 3140.45 N548 2011**

Niagara River Remedial Action Plan: implementation annex. Welland, Ont.: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, 2000. **SPCL FC 3140.45 N535 2000**

Current. Niagara Falls, Ont.: Niagara River Remedial Action Plan Public Advisory Committee, 1991-1996. **SPCL PER FC 3140.45 C87**